

REMARKS

No claims have been added or cancelled. Claims 1, 11, 17, 18, 26, and 27 have been amended to explicitly recite subject matter that was previously implicit. Consequently, amendments made herein to Claims 1, 11, 17, 18, 26, and 27 are not made to change the scope of the claims, but to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Hence, Claims 1-32 are currently pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4 and 6-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,622,170 issued to Harrison et al. ("*Harrison*").

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Harrison*.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

SEVERAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN FILED WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Applicants respectfully note that they have not received an initialed Form PTO-1449 acknowledging the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) filed on October 14, 2003, January 22, 2004, June 7, 2004, and December 29, 2004. Applicants respectfully request a copy of an initialed Form PTO-1449 to acknowledge the IDSs that were filed on October 14, 2003, January 22, 2004, June 7, 2004, and December 29, 2004.

Further, on the received initialed Form PTO-1449 acknowledging the IDS filed on August 16, 2000, one reference was not initialed. In particular, the reference entitled "Policy Framework LDAP Core Schema draft-ietf-policy-core-schema-06.txt (November 4, 1999) 13:59 (Pgs. 1-44)," listed under the "Other Art" section of the Form PTO-1449, was not initialed. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request a copy of a Form PTO-1449 with

initials acknowledging the filing of this reference, or an explanation of why the reference was not considered.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Each of the pending claims features one or more elements that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*. Each pending independent claim is discussed below.

A. CLAIMS 1, 18, 26, AND 27

Claims 1, 18, and 27 each feature:

“receiving a validity period value of one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid;
when quality of service policy management information is needed, determining which one of the directory information trees is a currently active directory information tree;
retrieving the quality of service policy management information from the currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof” (emphasis added)

Claim 26 features:

“means for receiving a validity period value of one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid;
means for determining, when quality of service policy management information is needed, which one of the directory information trees is a currently active directory information tree;
means for retrieving the quality of service policy management information from the currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof” (emphasis added)

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

Harrison teaches an approach for storing policy configuration information using a LDAP server. Under the approach of *Harrison*, when a LDAP client wishes to update policy configuration information, a new tree is created by cloning the current tree or a previous tree by building a new tree. When the LDAP client is finished updating the new tree, the path for using LDAP clients is set to the new tree and the clients are requested to read LDAP policy configuration information using the new path. If the new tree of policy configuration information is found to be unsuitable, the client's path is reset to the original tree and the clients are requested to read LDAP information policies using the reset path (See Abstract; Col. 6, lines 4-25).

Harrison does not teach a validity period value as claimed

While both *Harrison* and Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27 are directed towards storing policy information in a directory information tree, there are significant differences between the approach of *Harrison* and the express elements of Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27. For example, *Harrison* does not teach a validity period value as claimed. As expressly recited in Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27, a validity period value stores information that **defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid.**

On the other hand, to show a validity period value, the Office Action cites a portion of *Harrison* (Col. 4, lines 50-62) that states, *in toto*:

A policy consists of a condition and an action. When a VPN/QoS device receives network traffic, the policy conditions are searched for a match. If a condition match is found, the associated action is performed. The following if-then statement illustrates the enforcement of a policy.

IF Network-Traffic matches Condition

THEN perform action

The condition consists of a validity period and a traffic profile. **The validity period defines the time frame in which the action should be performed.**

The validity period value featured in Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27 expressly requires that the "validity period value store[s] information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid." In sharp contrast, the validity period in the approach of *Harrison* defines the time frame in which an action of a policy should be performed.

Thus, the validity period of *Harrison* has no relation to a time period in which a directory information tree storing the policy is valid. To illustrate:

- (a) information about a policy, having a condition with a valid validity period, may be stored in a directory information tree associated with a validity period value, and the validity period value of the directory information tree may indicate the directory information tree is valid;
- (b) information about a policy, having a condition with a valid validity period, may be stored in a directory information tree associated with a validity period value, and the validity period value of the directory information tree may indicate the directory information tree is invalid;
- (c) information about a policy, having a condition with an invalid validity period, may be stored in a directory information tree associated with a validity period value, and the validity period value of the directory information tree may indicate the directory information tree is valid; and
- (d) information about a policy, having a condition with an invalid validity period, may be stored in a directory information tree associated with a validity period value, and the validity period value of the directory information tree may indicate the directory information tree is invalid.

As illustrated above, the validity period of *Harrison* is completely independent of the validity period value expressly recited in the pending claims. Indeed, the directory information tree may store information about a first policy having a condition associated with a validity period that is valid, and the same directory information tree may store information about a second policy having a condition associated with a validity period that is invalid. Thus, knowledge of the validity period of a condition of a policy, under the approach of *Harrison*, in no way suggests a validity period value as claimed. The concepts are orthogonal.

As a result, numerous elements of Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27 are not shown by *Harrison*. For example, Claim 1 features the element of “receiving a validity period value of one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree,

associated with the validity period value, is valid.” This element is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*, as no portion of *Harrison* discusses receiving a validity period value as claimed.

Further, *Harrison* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the element of “retrieving the quality of service policy management information from the currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof” featured in Claim 1. Instead, the portion of *Harrison* cited to show this element (Col. 4, lines 50-62; Coo. 10, lines 21-33) merely discusses a validity period of a condition of a policy and retrieving configuration information from a LDAP server. No portion of *Harrison* discusses retrieving quality of service policy management information from a currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof. Consequently, this element is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*.

As one or more elements of Claim 1 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over *Harrison*, and is in condition for allowance. As Claims 18, 26, and 27 each feature elements similar to those of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that, for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, that each of Claims 18, 26, and 27 are each patentable over *Harrison*, and each of Claims 18, 26, and 27 are in condition for allowance.

B. Claim 9

Independent Claim 9 features:

“receiving a name and creation time value associated with one of a plurality of directory information trees that are stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager;
receiving quality of service policy information from the one of the plurality of directory information trees;
determining whether the name or creation time value of the one of the plurality of directory information trees have changed;
determining that the quality of service policy information is successfully retrieved only when the name or creation time value of the one of the plurality of directory information trees are unchanged.”

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

Rather than explaining why *Harrison* teaches the individual elements of Claim 9, the Office Action states, “[A]s to claims 9-27 and 29-32, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28 above.” This rejection overlooks the fact that no element featured in Claim 9 is recited in any one of Claims 1-4, 6-8, or 28.

The only argument offered by the Office Action explaining why Claim 9 is not patentable is:

As for the additional feature in claims 9 and 11 that requires retrieving the quality of service information under a condition that the name and creation time value associated with the quality of service policy information tree be unchanged: it is noted that *Harrison* teaches steps of consistency control at col. 6, lines 4-24, wherein the current tree of information is never altered, which naturally includes the various attributes such as name and creation time value.

There is no support in the cited portion of *Harrison* (col. 6, lines 4-24) to support the Office Action’s assertion that the elements of Claim 9 are suggested by *Harrison*. The cited portion of *Harrison* does not contain any mention of receiving a name and creation time value associated with a directory information tree that is stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager. Further, no portion in this section discusses determining whether the name or creation time value of a directory information tree has changed. Also, no portion in this section discusses determining that the quality of service policy information is successfully retrieved only when the name or creation time value of a directory information tree are unchanged.

Instead, this portion of *Harrison* teaches away from the approach of Claim 9 by asserting that information may be retrieved from a directory tree at any time, without restriction. While this portion of *Harrison* discusses restrictions for updating information stored in a directory tree, it does not contain any suggestions of any restrictions to when information may be read from a directory tree. To illustrate, this portion suggests information may be read from an active directory tree or an inactive directory tree, and contains no suggestion of when information cannot be read from a directory tree. Thus, the rationale of the Office Action in rejecting Claim 9 is contradicted by the teachings of *Harrison*.

In sum, (a) there are no arguments on the record explaining why each element of Claim 9 is not patentable over the art of record, and (b) the Office Action's assertion towards the "additional feature" of Claim 9 is contradicted by the teaching of *Harrison*.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 9 is patentable over the cited art, and is in condition for allowance.

C. Claim 11

Independent Claim 11 features:

“receiving a validity period value of one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid; providing, in the directory information tree manager, an active directory information tree value that references a currently active directory information tree, and an old directory information tree value that references a formerly active directory information tree; when quality of service policy management information is needed, determining which one of the directory information trees is a currently active directory information tree as indicated by the active directory information tree value of the directory information tree manager; retrieving the quality of service policy management information from the currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof.”

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

Rather than explaining why *Harrison* teaches the individual elements of Claim 11, the Office Action states, “[A]s to claims 9-27 and 29-32, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28 above.” This rejection overlooks the fact that several elements featured in Claim 11 are not recited in any one of Claims 1-4, 6-8, or 28.

The only argument offered by the Office Action explaining why Claim 11 is not patentable is:

As for the additional feature in claims 9 and 11 that requires retrieving the quality of service information under a condition that the name and creation time value associated with the quality of service policy information tree be unchanged: it is noted that *Harrison* teaches steps of consistency control at col.

6, lines 4-24, wherein the current tree of information is never altered, which naturally includes the various attributes such as name and creation time value.

There is no support in the cited portion of *Harrison* (col. 6, lines 4-24) to support the Office Action's assertion that the elements of Claim 11 are suggested by *Harrison*. Indeed, the Office Action's argument only mentions features of Claim 9, and does not contain any mention of any features of Claim 11.

As explained above with reference to Claims 1, 18, 26, and 27, *Harrison* does not disclose, teach, or suggest a validity period value as claimed. Consequently, the element of "receiving a validity period value of one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which a directory information tree, associated with the validity period value, is valid" is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*. Further, the element of "retrieving the quality of service policy management information from the currently active directory information tree only during the time period within the validity period value thereof" is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 is patentable over the cited art, and is in condition for allowance.

D. Claim 17

Independent Claim 17 features:

"creating and storing a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in the directory service in association with a directory information tree manager;
when quality of service policy management information is needed, determining which one of the directory information trees is a currently active directory information tree;
receiving a validity period value of the directory information tree manager, wherein the validity period value stores information that defines a time period in which the currently active directory information tree is valid;
if the validity period value of the directory information tree manager is currently valid, then performing the steps of:
receiving a name value and a validity period value of a currently active directory information tree; and

retrieving quality of service policy information from the active directory information tree only during the time period indicated by the validity period value of that active directory information tree.”

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

Rather than explaining why Claim 17 is or is not patentable, the Office Action states, “As to claims 9-27 and 29-32, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28 above.”

Numerous elements recited in Claim 17 are not featured in any of Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28. For example, the five elements of Claim 17 beginning with (a) “creating and storing,” (b) “receiving a validity period value,” (c) “if the validity period value of the directory information tree manager is currently valid,” (d) “receiving a name value and a validity period value,” and (e) “retrieving quality of service policy information” are not present in any of Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28. Thus, there are currently no proper substantive arguments on the record against the patentability of Claim 17.

As explained above, there are numerous, fundamental differences between the approach of *Harrison* and the pending claims. For example, as explained above, *Harrison* does not disclose, teach, or suggest a validity period value as featured in Claim 17.

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 17 is patentable over the cited art, and is in condition for allowance.

E. Claim 29

Independent Claim 29 differs considerable in form and scope and features:

“testing a validity designation value after carrying out a read operation, wherein the validity designation value is associated with one of a plurality of directory information trees that are created and stored in a directory service in association with a directory information tree manager, and wherein the plurality of directory information trees are associated with quality of service policy information; and verifying the validity of information that has been read during the read operation by determining whether the validity designation value is currently null.”

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

In rejecting Claim 29, the Office Action stated: "As to claims 9-27 and 29-32, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28 above." This is incorrect. The elements recited in Claim 29 are not featured in any of Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28. Thus, there are currently no proper substantive arguments on the record against the patentability of Claim 29.

As explained above, there are numerous, fundamental differences between the cited art and the pending claims. In particular, the elements of "testing a validity designation value after carrying out a read operation," and "verifying the validity of information that has been read during the read operation by determining whether the validity designation value is currently null" are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 29 is patentable over the cited art, and is in condition for allowance.

F. Claim 32

Independent Claim 32 features:

"a machine readable medium carrying at least
a plurality of directory information trees associated with quality of service
policy information, each directory information tree includes at least a
policy sub-tree that has at least one or more role objects, one or more
service template objects, and one or more policy decision point objects,
wherein the one or more role objects, one or more service template
objects, and one or more policy decision point objects are related to the
quality of service information;
one or more sequences of stored instructions accessible to the processor and
which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to carry out
the steps of:
determining that one or more objects in one of the directory information trees
has been modified by a process and rewriting to the directory service
only such objects, service template objects, and policy decision point
objects as have been modified by the process."

The above-quoted elements are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

In rejecting Claim 32, the Office Action stated: "As to claims 9-27 and 29-32, since the features of these claims can also be found in claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28 above." This is incorrect.

The elements recited in Claim 32 are not featured in any of Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 28. Thus, there are currently no proper substantive arguments on the record against the patentability of Claim 32.

As explained above, there are numerous, fundamental differences between the cited art and the pending claims. In particular, the element of “determining that one or more objects in one of the directory information trees has been modified by a process and rewriting to the directory service only such objects, service template objects, and policy decision point objects as have been modified by the process” is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by *Harrison*. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 32 is patentable over the cited art, and is in condition for allowance.

G. Dependent Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 19-25, 28, and 30-31

Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 19-25, 28, and 30-31 are dependent claims, each of which depends (directly or indirectly) on one of the claims discussed above. Each of Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 19-25, 28, and 30-31 is therefore allowable for the reasons given above for the claim on which it depends. In addition, each of Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 19-25, 28, and 30-31 introduces one or more additional limitations that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time, although the Applicants reserve the right to further point out the differences between the cited art and the novel features recited in the dependent claims.

CONCLUSION


For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any fee shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On March 24, 2005

By



Angelica Maloney